

**The Initiation of Quiescent-Filament Associated Coronal  
Mass Ejections by New Active Regions**

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We will present observational evidence that the eruption of  
filaments and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) occur as a  
consequence of the destabilization of large-scale coronal arcades  
due to newly emerging magnetic flux reconnecting with the pre-  
existing arcades.

Many scenarios have been developed concerning the initiation of  
CMEs. However, for the most part, these scenarios have not been  
strongly supported by observations. Recently a scenario in which  
CMEs are initiated by the eruption of new magnetic flux beneath  
the pre-existing closed coronal structures has been modeled by  
Steinolfson, who has found that many of the observed  
characteristics of CMEs were seen in the model calculations.

We have observationally tested the hypothesis that the eruption of  
quiescent filaments and associated CMEs are initiated by magnetic  
reconnection between the pre-CME large-scale coronal structures  
and new, growing active regions. Both statistical studies and case  
studies were carried out. We have found that 2/3 of the filament-  
associated CMEs occurred after substantial amounts of new  
magnetic flux emerged in the vicinity of the filament. The new flux  
we studied was in the form of new active regions. Because of  
observational difficulties we could not test the hypothesis that the  
other 1/3 of the quiescent filaments erupted because of smaller  
amounts of newly erupting flux. The emergence of the new active  
regions begins a few days before the eruption and typically is still  
occurring at the time of the eruption, in all cases in which the new  
flux was oriented favorably for reconnection with the pre-existing  
coronal arcades; the filament was observed to erupt.

1. 1993 Fall Meeting
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4. SI 102?
5. (a) N/A  
(b) 7519,7509,7524  
(c) N/A
6. Oral
7. 50% talk at AAS, Stanford
8. \$50 Check enclosed
9. c
10. Schedule paper after that by  
Martin and Feynman
11. No